



## COVID-19 Global Mobility update

21 - 24 April 2020

Dear all,

Please find below our most recent Mobility related global updates specifically related to the COVID-19 crisis and current guidance or measures that different countries are putting into place.

If you have any questions on below, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

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### **Combating COVID-19 with resilience**

[Visit our Deloitte COVID-19 webpage](#) to see a collection of Global Deloitte insights to help businesses manage and mitigate the risk associated with COVID-19.

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## **India - COVID-19: Visa services suspension extended**

### **What is the change?**

India has extended the suspension of all visa services until May 3, 2020 except for in-country registration, visa extension and other in-country services.

#### **Key Points:**

- All existing visas issued to nationals of any country except those issued to Diplomats, Official passport holders, those in UN / International organizations, those on Employment, Project visas and those who are operating aircrew of scheduled commercial airlines, and who had not yet entered India, are suspended until May 3.
- OCI cardholders who are not in India are not allowed to enter the country until May 3, but overseas OCI cardholders who are in India have a valid status.
- Visas of all foreign nationals already in India remain valid. They may contact the nearest FRRO/FRO through [e-FRRO portal](#) for extension/conversion etc. of their visa

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or grant of any consular service. Visa services granted on account of COVID-19 are GRATIS.

The government had implemented lock down and travel restrictions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 previously and the same has been extended until May 3.

The visa services suspension extension will impact the movement of people into India. Employers should account for affected travellers and rearrange travel schedules accordingly.

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## **Philippines - COVID-19: Departure procedures modified**

### **What is the change?**

The government has implemented changes to departure procedures for foreign nationals leaving the country.

#### **Key Points:**

- Departing holders of approved and implemented visas who have not yet received their ACR I-Card are no longer required to obtain an ACR I-Card Waiver Order. They will instead present the following when clearing immigration at the airport:
  - Original passport with implemented visa
  - Official receipt (original or photocopy) of the ACR I-Card waiver application fee
  - Emigration Clearance Certificate (ECC)/Return Permit (RP) or ECC/Special Resident Certificate (SRC) fee, whichever is applicable
  
- Foreign nationals with approved but unimplemented visas can depart the country without submitting their passports for visa stamping, as is normally the case. They will instead present the following when clearing immigration at the airport:
  - Original passport
  - Printout of their name on the agenda list when the visa was approved

- o Department of Justice endorsement or certification from the approving office, whichever is applicable
- o Official receipts of ECC/RP or ECC/SRC fee payment, whichever is applicable
- Departing Temporary Visitor Visa holders who have stayed in the country for less than one year may obtain their ECC at the airport.
- The Bureau of Immigration is also suspending biometrics and fingerprinting requirements, as well as the issuance of Special Security Registration Numbers, normally required for ECC processing.

Foreign nationals with approved visas who departed in line with the procedures described above must present the applicable receipts to re-enter the Philippines and obtain their visa stamp/ACR I-Card.

The changes to departure procedures are good news for employers, as these will ease the departure and return processes for their foreign national employees.

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## **Thailand - Automatic validity period extension for pre-work permit approval letters (WP.3) and postponement of work permit issuance**

### **What is the change?**

With effect from 26 March 2020, Thailand has banned entry to all foreigners, with the exception of work permit holders, those on diplomatic missions, or those working with the transport of goods or aircraft. The aforementioned groups may enter Thailand, provided they obtain a Fit-to-Fly certificate issued within 72 hours prior to their departure.

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Foreigners without work permits, even those with a valid Non-Immigrant B visa, are therefore denied entry. To address this issue, the Employment Department has issued a memorandum dated 2 April 2020 with the following two directives:

- There will be no new issuances of pre-work permit approval letters (WP.3), which is a requirement to obtain the Non-Immigrant B visa and enter Thailand to finalise the work permit issuance. The decision for applicants who have already filed the WP.3 approval application will be put on hold until the travel ban has been lifted.
- Employers who have received the WP.3 approval letters with a 30-day validity period that expires from **26 March onwards** are to postpone the prospective employee's arrival in Thailand until the travel ban has been lifted. In these cases, the validity period will be automatically extended, and employers do not need to file an application for extension or cancellation to the Employment Department.

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## **Thailand - Permission for certain groups of foreigners to remain in Thailand**

### **What is the change?**

The Ministry of Interior has announced measures to accommodate certain groups of foreigners who will need to remain in Thailand as a result of travel restrictions:

1. **Automatic extension of re-entry permits for Permanent Residents (PR)** (no application is required): Foreigners who are Permanent Residents in Thailand holding one-year re-entry permits will have these permits automatically extended. This serves to benefit those who are currently unable to enter Thailand. When the COVID-19 situation has been resolved, these foreigners will then be allowed to return to Thailand within a stipulated timeframe to be determined by the Immigration Bureau.

2. **Automatic extension of temporary visas and Long Term Visas** (no application is required and overstayers will be exempted): Foreigners who are permitted to stay in Thailand on temporary visas (including Visa on Arrival) and Long Term Visas under the Immigration Act, Petroleum Act, Investment Promotion Act, or Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand Act, which are due to expire between 26 March 2020 and 30 April 2020, will have their visas automatically extended until 30 April 2020. In addition, 90-day reports due between 26 March 2020 and 30 April 2020 will be temporarily extended. However, any visa or 90-day report that will expire or are due after 30 April 2020 must be promptly extended or reported within the stipulated timeframe to be announced by the Immigration Bureau. Failure to do so may result in penalty under the Immigration Act.
3. **Foreigners holding Border Passes will be permitted to remain in Thailand:** Foreigners holding Border Passes will be permitted to remain in Thailand from 23 March 2020 onwards, for the duration that the borders between Thailand and neighbouring countries remain closed. When the borders re-open, these foreigners must leave Thailand within seven days from the date of re-opening. Failure to do so may result in penalty under the Immigration Act.

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[For the latest country-specific travel restrictions and immigration information in relation to COVID-19, visit \[gowork.ges.deloitte\]\(http://gowork.ges.deloitte\) to view Deloitte's Digital travel Map.](#)

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## **South Korea—FY2019 tax return payment deadline for individual taxpayers**

### **What is the change?**

The original deadline for 2019 Korean individual tax return filing and payment is 1 June 2020. In accordance with the government's efforts to mitigate the economic impact of the

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coronavirus (COVID-19), the government announced it will extend the annual individual income tax payment deadline to 31 August 2020.

Individual taxpayers may now pay the income tax due (including local tax surcharge) by 31 August 2020, instead of the original deadline of 1 June 2020, without any penalties or interest.

However, this due date extension only applies to income tax payments, not the filing of individual income tax returns. Individual income tax returns should still be filed by the original due date, 1 June 2020, although the due date for any tax payments has been extended to 31 August 2020.

**Who will it impact:** All individual taxpayers who file individual income tax returns with additional taxes due.

**When will it come into effect:** The deadline extension is effective immediately.

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## **Deloitte's view**

The deadline for income tax payments has been extended to 31 August 2020, which is three months later than the original due date of 1 June 2020. Regardless of the three-month payment extension, the deadline for filing individual income tax returns remains the same, and late filing penalties will be imposed on individuals who submit their individual income tax returns after 1 June 2020.

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## **Ghana - COVID-19: Partial lockdown lifted, border closures extended**

### **What is the change?**

Ghana has lifted the partial lockdown in some areas of the country but has extended the national border closures.

**Key points:**

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- Air, land and sea borders are closed to all travelers for entering and leaving the country, except for the transporting of cargo, goods and supplies. National borders will remain closed for an additional two weeks from April 20 to May 4.
  - Delays are to be expected for work/residence permit application processing.
  - Effective April 20, the restriction on movement of people and the partial lockdown in Greater Accra and Kumasi metropolitan areas and their contiguous districts has been lifted.

The previous border closures were intended to last until April 19, but they have been extended until May 4.

The new border closures extension will impact the movement of people into and out of Ghana.

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## **Indonesia - List of regions with large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) in Indonesia**

### **What is the change?**

As of Saturday (18 April 2020), a number of provinces/cities are implementing large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) with the approval of Minister of Health, Terawan Agus Putranto. These include the following:

- Jakarta (from 10 April 2020)
- Bogor, West Java (from 15 April 2020)
- Bekasi, West Java (from 15 April 2020)
- Depok, West Java (from 15 April 2020)
- Greater Bandung, West Java (from 22 April 2020)
- West Sumatra (from 22 April 2020)
- Pekanbaru, Riau (from 17 April 2020)
- Makassar, South Sulawesi (from 24 April 2020)
- Tegal, Central Java (from 23 April 2020)



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Once enforced, the PSBB is effective for a period of 14 days, and can be extended further if necessary.

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## **Singapore - Two Singapore Citizens and one foreigner to be charged after breaching their Stay-Home Notices (SHN)**

### **What is the change?**

Two Singapore Citizens and one foreigner will be charged in court on 21 April 2020 after breaching their Stay-Home Notices (SHN).

The Government had announced that with effect from 16 March 2020, 2359 hours, all residents, Long-Term Pass holders and short-term visitors entering Singapore with travel history to any ASEAN country<sup>1</sup> within the last 14 days would be issued an SHN and must remain in their place of residence at all times for a 14-day period. From 20 March 2020, 2359 hours, these requirements were extended to all residents, Long-Term Pass holders and short-term visitors entering Singapore. Further measures were put in place, from 9 April 2020, 2359 hours, requiring all residents, Long-Term Pass holders and short-term visitors entering Singapore to serve their 14-day SHN at dedicated facilities.

ICA has investigated each of the three individuals' wilful breaches of SHN requirements. In consultation with the Attorney-General's Chambers, they will be charged in court on 21 April 2020 for their respective offences under the Infectious Diseases Act and its Regulations. A person convicted of an offence under the Infectious Diseases Act and its Regulations is liable to a fine of up to \$10,000, or up to six months' imprisonment, or both.

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ICA will not hesitate to take firm enforcement action against those who fail to comply with SHN requirements. Besides prosecuting offenders under the Infectious Diseases Act and its Regulations, ICA may also cancel their immigration facilities and bar them from re-entering Singapore, where applicable.

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## **Singapore - Precautionary Stay-Home Notices for Work Permit and S pass holders in construction sector**

### **What is the change?**

As a precautionary move, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) will require all Work Permit holders and S Pass holders in the construction sector to be placed on mandatory stay-home notices (SHNs). This SHN will take effect on 20 April 2020 and end on 4 May 2020 (both dates inclusive). The Dependant Pass holders of these workers are also to be placed on SHN.

The SHN applies to all workers and their dependents in any place of accommodation, or any place which is converted into a place of accommodation on a temporary basis, or otherwise. It excludes those staying in any dormitory gazetted as an isolation area, or any foreign employee dormitory as defined in the Foreign Employee Dormitories Act 2015, as special arrangements have already been catered for them.

During the SHN period, MOM enforcement officers will conduct regular checks on the workers to ensure compliance to SHN requirements. MOM will take strict enforcement measures against errant employers or employees who do not comply with the SHN requirements, including the suspension of work pass privileges and revocation of work passes. More information on the steps to be taken by employers can be found in the next article below.

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## **Côte d'Ivoire - COVID-19: Air borders closed, other restrictions implemented**

### **What is the change?**

Côte d'Ivoire has implemented several measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

#### **Key points:**

- The country's air borders are closed to incoming flights indefinitely.
- Nationals of Côte d'Ivoire abroad are temporarily not allowed to enter the country.
- Government offices are now on a limited work schedule operating from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on week days.
- Travel to and from Abidjan, the most populous city, is not permitted. Individuals must wear masks in Abidjan, and inter-city and inter-municipal transport has been restricted.

The various pandemic-related measures implemented by the government will impact the movement of people into Côte d'Ivoire for the time being. Depending on how the COVID-19 situation unfolds, there could be additional measures announced in the coming weeks. Employers should account for affected travellers and rearrange travel schedules accordingly.

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## **Guyana - COVID-19: Airport shutdowns extended, other restrictions added**

### **What is the change?**

The Guyana government recently announced additional restrictions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

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**Key points:**

- Operations at the Cheddi Jagan and Eugene F. Correia International airports have been suspended until May 1, 2020. It is now forbidden to travel to countries that border Guyana. Seaports were closed to international vessels effective March 21, with the exception of merchant ships.
- All non-essential businesses are now closed until May 1 and a curfew from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. has been implemented.
- Public servants are now working on a system of rotational shifts.

The additional travel restrictions will impact the movement of people to Guyana. Employers should account for affected travellers and rearrange travel schedules accordingly. Significant delays may occur for consular and in-country processing.

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**For the latest country-specific travel restrictions and immigration information in relation to COVID-19, visit [gowork.ges.deloitte](https://www.gowork.ges.deloitte.com) to view Deloitte's Digital travel Map.**

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## **United States - Trump announces plans to restrict green card applicants by executive order**

### **What is the change?**

President Donald Trump announced during the press briefing today that he will sign an executive order to restrict immigrants seeking permanent residency from entering the U.S., but will not restrict temporary visa applicants, such as H-1B workers or other non-immigrant categories, at this time.

**Key points:**

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- Trump stated that the restrictions will apply only to individuals seeking permanent residency (i.e., green cards) and will not apply to those entering the U.S. on a temporary basis.
  - The restrictions will be in effect for 60 days, after which the government will evaluate whether they should be extended or modified.
  - The administration will examine whether additional immigration-related measures should be put into place to protect U.S. workers.

Late Monday night, Trump tweeted that he would be signing an executive order “temporarily suspending immigration to the United States,” because of COVID-19 and to protect American workers.

President Trump indicated he will sign the order tomorrow. The text is not yet available, so details about the scope of the restrictions, and any exemptions, are not yet known. Deloitte is continuing to monitor developments and will provide analysis when the official order is published.

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## **Singapore - Over 62,000 employers to benefit from S\$675 million in Foreign Worker Levy rebates**

### **What is the change?**

The Government had earlier announced at the 6 April 2020 Solidarity Budget that it would provide employers with a Foreign Worker Levy rebate of S\$750 for each work permit or S Pass holder. This is on top of the waiver of the Foreign Worker Levy that is due in April 2020. The initiatives are meant to provide additional support to help employers to care for the upkeep of our foreign workers during the circuit breaker period.

From 21 April 2020, more than 62,000 employers will benefit from close to S\$675 million in the first wave of levy rebate payouts. This will be disbursed to eligible employers who have paid at least one month of levy due in 2020. Employers do not

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need to apply for the levy rebate. Employers will be informed once the rebate is successfully paid to them. In the meantime, employers can check their eligibility and the amount of rebate they will receive [here](#)<sup>1</sup>.

Eligible employers who have successfully signed up for PayNow Corporate will receive the rebate on 21 April 2020. MOM urges employers to sign up for PayNow Corporate by 29 April 2020, if they have not already done so, to be in time for the second crediting attempt on 30 April 2020. Otherwise, employers will receive the rebate via cheque from 15 May 2020.

<sup>1</sup> Employers can check their levy eligibility and rebate at [www.mom.gov.sg/levy-rebate](http://www.mom.gov.sg/levy-rebate). Only Directors, business owners, as well as Work Permit Online (WPOL), Employment Pass Online (EPOL)'s administrators and users can use this service.

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## **Singapore - Advisory to employers that certain foreign employees in the construction sector (and their dependants) are put on Stay-Home Notice from 20 April 2020 to 4 May 2020**

### **What is the change?**

As the number of COVID-19 infected cases involving foreign employees in the construction sector is increasing, Foreign Employees (as defined below) and their Dependants (where applicable), are put on Stay-Home Notice (SHN) effective from 20 April 2020, 0000 hours to 4 May 2020, 2359 hours (SHN Period).

#### **Definition of foreign employees**

“Foreign Employees” are foreign employees in the Construction Sector holding Work Permits and S Passes, residing in a Specified Place of Accommodation as defined in the Notifications to Employers (see [Appendices A and B](#)). It excludes any dormitory gazetted as an “isolation area”, or any foreign employee dormitory as defined in the Foreign

Employee Dormitories Act (FEDA) 20151 as special arrangements have been made for foreign employees living in these places of accommodation. "Dependants" are family members of the Foreign Employees issued with Dependant's Passes. This is a precautionary measure taken to minimise the risk of further community transmission of COVID-19.

### **Steps to be taken by employers**

1. Employers are required to take the following steps by **19 April 2020, 2359 hours**:

- i. Issue the additional work pass conditions to your Foreign Employees (and require and take reasonable steps to ensure that your Foreign Employees issue the additional special conditions to their Dependants, if any).
- ii. Remind your Foreign Employees and their Dependants (if any) to fully comply with the additional conditions, failing which their Work Permits, S passes or Dependant's Pass may be revoked.
- iii. Ensure that each of your Foreign Employee and their Dependants (if any) has a local mobile number registered with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and inform your Foreign Employees and their Dependants (if any) to download the WhatsApp and [TraceTogether](#) apps.
- iv. Inform your Foreign Employees and their Dependants (if any) that enforcement officers may contact them via WhatsApp audio and/or video call during the SHN Period.
- v. Require and take reasonable steps to ensure your Foreign Employees and their Dependants (if any) monitor themselves for any signs of fever, cough, breathlessness or a runny nose including providing thermometers for the workers to record their temperature.
- vi. Arrange to deliver food to your Foreign Employees during the SHN Period, as they are not allowed to leave their premises to buy food. More information on this can be found [in MOM's advisory to employers on food arrangements for construction foreign employees on Stay-Home Notice from 20 April 2020 to 4 May 2020 issued on 21 April 2020](#).

2. From 20 April 2020 onwards, employers are required to [submit a daily declaration](#) on compliance to the measures listed above.

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### **Exemption appeal for Foreign Employees carrying out essential services**

For companies approved to carry out essential activities, employers may [submit an appeal to BCA](#) to allow your Foreign Employee(s) to leave their places of residence to perform work in respect of the permitted essential activities during the SHN Period. Appeals are subject to BCA's approval on a case-by-case basis, and the number of Foreign Employees approved may also be limited.

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## **Costa Rica - COVID-19: Travel restrictions extended, immigration offices closed**

### **What is the change?**

The Costa Rica government recently announced it has extended previous travel restrictions until May 15 and closed immigration offices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

#### **Key points:**

- Entry will be denied to tourists and non-resident foreigners. The restriction applies to ports of entry for land, sea and air. Additionally, residence statuses will be revoked for individuals who try to enter the country illegally.
- Nationals and residents who enter the country will be subject to a 14-day quarantine.
- Nationals, residents and tourists are all allowed to leave the country, but residents and tourists who do so will not be allowed to return until May 1, 2020, or possibly later.
- Immigration offices will remain closed through May 15. Customer service and general procedures offices of the Directorate General of Immigration and Foreignness Services are closed through May 17.



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An extension until July 17 has been granted for filing first-time documents, prevention documents and appointments. Alternative means, such as the Correos do Costa Rica and Banco de Costa Rica, will be used to process renewals of immigration categories. Technical assessment and filing services will continue functioning. However, in the case additional documentation filing is needed, it will be submitted after May 17. Passport delivery and minors' exit permit granting will function normally.

The travel restrictions extension and immigration services disruption will impact the movement of people into and out of Costa Rica. Employers should account for affected travelers and rearrange travel schedules accordingly.

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**For the latest country-specific travel restrictions and immigration information in relation to COVID-19, visit [gework.ges.deloitte](https://gework.ges.deloitte) to view Deloitte's Digital travel Map.**

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## **United States - COVID-19: Trump issues proclamation suspending entry of immigrant visa applicants**

### **What is the change?**

President Donald Trump has issued a [proclamation](#) temporarily suspending the entry of immigrant-visa applicants for 60 days.

#### **Key points:**

- The suspension will take effect April 23 at 11:59 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and will last for 60 days unless extended or modified.

- The order applies to immigrant visa applicants, and does not apply to temporary visa applicants, such as H-1B, L-1 or other nonimmigrant categories.
- The order only applies to immigrant visa applicants who are outside the U.S. when the suspension takes effect and do not already have a valid immigrant visa as of the effective date and who do not have another type of travel document (such as advance parole, transportation letter or boarding foil) that permits them to travel to the U.S.
- The order specifically excludes:
  - o U.S. lawful permanent residents.
  - o Spouses and unmarried children under 21 of U.S. citizens.
  - o Foreign physicians, nurses or other healthcare professionals (and accompanying spouses and unmarried children under 21) applying for immigrant visas to perform research to combat the spread of COVID-19, or to perform work essential to combatting, recovering from or alleviating the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak.
  - o Those applying for EB-5 immigrant Investor visas.
  - o Individuals whose entry is in the national interest.
  - o Individuals who would further U.S. law enforcement objectives.
  - o Certain classes of Special Immigrant Visa applicants and their family members.
  - o Members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their spouses and children.
- Within 30 days, the proclamation requires the Secretaries of Labor, Homeland Security and State to review nonimmigrant visa programs and recommend to the president other measures “appropriate to stimulate the United States economy and ensure the prioritization, hiring, and employment of United States workers.”
- The proclamation will be reviewed no later than 10 days before the current expiration date to determine whether it should be extended or modified.

Since U.S. consulates have already suspended routine visa operations abroad due to COVID-19, the order will have a minimal immediate impact, but employers with affected employees should plan for additional delays even after consulates resume routine visa operations. Notably, the executive order does not affect nonimmigrant visa applicants outside the U.S., such as H-1B, L-1 or other temporary

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workers. It also does not affect USCIS's processing of immigrant petitions (Form I-140 and Form I-130) and adjustment of status applicants who can apply for their green cards from within the U.S. and do not need to obtain an immigrant visa at a consulate abroad. However, the proclamation directs the federal agencies to review nonimmigrant programs and recommend additional measures within 30 days. Deloitte is closely following developments and will provide additional analysis in the coming days.

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## **United States - COVID-19: Closure of Trusted Traveler enrollment centers extended through June 1**

### **What is the change?**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced it is extending the closures of Trusted Traveler Program enrollment centers until at least June 1, because of the COVID-19 national emergency. The enrollment centers have been closed since March 19 and had been scheduled to reopen May 1.

#### **Key points:**

- The closures apply to Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST enrollment centers. Global Entry mobile enrollment centers are also closed until further notice.
  - Applicants who are conditionally approved and seek an interview at an enrollment center must reschedule after June 1.
  - The Enrollment on Arrival program remains operational for Global Entry applicants who are conditionally approved and seeking to complete enrollment when arriving on an international flight at one of the 60 airports that offer the program.
  - CBP has also temporarily extended the period of time that Trusted Traveler Program applicants have to complete enrollment; they will now have 485 days from the date of application to complete the enrollment process.
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- The agency will also extend Trusted Traveler Program benefits for up to 18 months for members who apply for renewal before their current membership expires.

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## **Iraq - COVID-19: Mandatory military base government contractor testing**

### **What is the change?**

New regulations will soon be announced requiring that all government contractors at Iraq military bases conduct COVID-19 tests.

#### **Key points:**

- Under the new regulations, monthly COVID-19 tests will be conducted by government contractors. When required by the Ministry of Health, they will also confirm test validity.
- Government contractors will also be required report employees with COVID-19 symptoms and test them immediately.
- Quarantine facilities at bases should be made by government contractors in the event there are positive test results. The Ministry of Health will perform regular monitoring of COVID-19 patients at the bases.
- Fees for government COVID-19 testing have not yet been confirmed. The Ministry of Health in Anbar has begun training personnel in COVID-19 detection using PCR devices.

Earlier this month, the government extended the suspension of flights to and from Iraq and a nationwide lockdown to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

The testing requirement is intended to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 between military bases and from them to the civilian population. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to develop, and Deloitte will provide additional

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updates as information becomes available. Please check Deloitte's COVID-19 Digital Map, available here, for information on travel restrictions and immigration changes in other countries.

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## **Hong Kong - Government enhances testing arrangements for asymptomatic inbound travellers**

### **What is the change?**

With effect from 22 April 2020, all asymptomatic inbound travellers arriving at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) will be required to wait for their test results at a designated location after their deep throat saliva samples have been collected for COVID-19 testing by the Department of Health (DH)'s Temporary Specimen Collection Centre (TSCC) located at AsiaWorld-Expo.

Depending on the time of arrival, and other considerations for infection control, crowd control, and required testing times, the DH will arrange for asymptomatic inbound travellers who need to wait for test results overnight to be temporarily accommodated at the DH Holding Centre for Test Result (HCTR) set up in the Regal Oriental Hotel.

The DH will issue quarantine orders to all passengers arriving at the HKIA, and electronic wristbands will also be arranged for them. According to quarantine orders, those staying at the DH HCTR shall not leave their hotel rooms or move around in the hotel. Leaving designated rooms will be regarded as a breach of the quarantine order and constitutes a criminal offence. Offenders are subject to a maximum imprisonment for six months and fine of HK\$25,000.

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## **Singapore - Reminder for employers to extend the stay of their foreign employees and dependants upon pass cancellation or expiry**

### **What is the change?**

In view of travel restrictions, some foreign employees and their dependants may face difficulties in returning home after the cancellation or expiry of their passes. Employers are reminded to extend their stay until travel restrictions have been lifted. According to the email circular to employers released by MOM's Work Pass Division on 12 April 2020, employers are also required to bear the costs of sending them home.

MOM will not hesitate to take action against employers who do not comply with these requirements, including prosecution action and withdrawal of work pass privileges. To adhere to safe distancing measures, please use the online service to [extend their stay](#), instead of visiting MOM's service counters.

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## **Qatar - COVID-19: Visitor relief measures implemented**

### **What is the change?**

The government has implemented several relief measures for foreign visitors in Qatar who are unable to return home because of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

#### **Key Points:**

- Because of the airport closures, visitors using tourist visas, including on-arrival and ones that were previously issued, are allowed to remain in the country without needing visa extensions or the payment of any fees.

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- A grace period will be granted for them to exit the country when conditions have become normal and flights begin operating again.

Qatar implemented a travel ban last month and suspended visa issuance in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In April, the travel ban was extended and various visa measures, such as extensions, were implemented.

The new relief measures will make remaining in the country and eventually exiting easier for foreign visitors.

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## **Nepal - Temporary shutdown of visa services**

### **What is the change?**

The Government of Nepal decided on 14 April 2020 to extend the ongoing lockdown period and suspend all front door services until 27 April 2020 to control the COVID-19 outbreak in Nepal. The Department of Immigration also suspends all its visa services during the aforementioned period, and requests foreigners in Nepal to remain patient regardless of their visa term. The visas will be regulated after regular services resume, as per the [8 April 2020 notice](#) issued by the Department of Immigration.

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## **Kuwait – COVID-19: Government institutions to close temporarily**

### **What is the change?**

Kuwait recently announced government closures and other measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

#### **Key points:**

- From April 26 to May 28, all Ministries, government entities/organizations and public institutions will be closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Official work days will start again on May 31.
- New curfew hours will be implemented from the beginning of Ramadan. They will be 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Those who violate the curfew or home quarantine measures will have their names published in media such as daily newspapers and social media.
- Kuwait International Airport remains closed and foreign nationals are banned from entering Kuwait via the airport. Entry is limited to Kuwaiti citizens, their immediate family members and domestic workers who are travelling with them. All other travelers are not allowed entry into the country until further notice.

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## **United Arab Emirates - Entry suspension for residence visa holders extended**

### **What is the change?**

As of April 2, the entry suspension for residence visa holders was extended until further notice.

#### **Key Points:**

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- Foreign nationals with valid UAE residence visas who are outside the country may not enter the UAE until further notice.
  - Holders of valid UAE visas who are abroad and wish to return to the UAE are requested to register with the [twajudi residents](#) service on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website in order to apply for permission to return to the UAE once possible.
  - Commercial passenger flights in and out of Dubai and Abu Dhabi were grounded on March 24, but three UAE airlines (Emirates, Etihad and Air Arabia) are operating limited outbound repatriation flights for those wishing to leave the UAE.
  - Dubai residents must apply online for a [police permit](#) in order to leave home.

The UAE suspended international flights and implemented entry suspension for residence visa holders last month in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Employers should anticipate significant disruptions to employee mobility and rearrange travel schedules for affected travelers accordingly.

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## **Qatar - COVID-19: Visitor relief measures implemented**

### **What is the change?**

The government has implemented several relief measures for foreign visitors in Qatar who are unable to return home because of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

#### **Key Points:**

- Because of the airport closures, visitors using tourist visas, including on-arrival and ones that were previously issued, are allowed to remain in the country without needing visa extensions or the payment of any fees.

- A grace period will be granted for them to exit the country when conditions have become normal and flights begin operating again.

Qatar implemented a travel ban last month and suspended visa issuance in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In April, the travel ban was extended and various visa measures, such as extensions, were implemented.

The new relief measures will make remaining in the country and eventually exiting easier for foreign visitors.

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**For the latest country-specific travel restrictions and immigration information in relation to COVID-19, visit [gowork.ges.deloitte](http://gowork.ges.deloitte) to view Deloitte's Digital travel Map.**



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